

II Amendments to the Claims

1. (Cancelled)
2. (New) A valve guide for a discharge valve assembly, said valve guide comprising:
 - a conical prop;
 - a socket extending through said prop, said socket for slidebly receiving a stem of a piston;
 - a plurality of apertures intersecting said socket .
3. (New) In a discharge valve assembly, said valve assembly having a valve seat, a spring, a piston, and a valve guide, said valve guide having a socket, said socket having a plurality of apertures intersecting said socket, said piston comprising:
 - a head with a bottom surface that is convex across its entirety; and
 - a stem extending away from said head.